IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 21 and 41 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A distributed group system for displaying ~~information about what~~ text data indicating where a user is ~~doing~~, on a screen of each terminal device ~~with text data~~, comprising:

a server device connected to a plurality of terminal devices via a ~~communication channel~~ network, having:

receiving means for repeatedly receiving a picked-up image and text data ~~about what~~ indicating where a user is ~~doing~~ from each of said terminal devices; and

first transmitting means for repeatedly transmitting the picked-up image and the text data to each of said terminal devices, and

each of said terminal devices includes:

image input means for inputting a picked up image from a camera;

status input means for inputting text data at its own terminal device, the text data ~~including information about what~~ indicating where a user is ~~doing~~;

second transmitting means for repeatedly transmitting an image picked up at its own terminal device and text data input by said status input means to said server device in response to a user's input operation;

receiving means for repeatedly receiving the picked-up image and the text data of each terminal device from said server device; and

display means for ~~displaying~~ controlling a display device to display a virtual office area where a group of a user's virtual single rooms surrounded with a rectangular frame are displayed, wherein ~~each user's virtual single room has~~ the received picked-up image which is transmitted repeatedly and the text data ~~about what~~ indicating where a user is ~~doing~~ are located in each user's virtual single room.

Claim 2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein selecting the user to be displayed in the virtual office, and changing of arrangement of a display position of the information concerning the user are performed by a specific user.

4. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein said display means displays a virtual user common space area including a meeting room, a training room, a data room, and a lounge with the virtual office on a screen of said terminal device.

5. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein the user's virtual single room has information on a future working schedule.

6. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein when telephone communication is performed via a telephone channel board disposed in said server device, said display means displays character information indicating that the user is on the telephone.

7. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein when a user is resting, said display means does not display the resting or on leave user's working situation image, and displays an image indicating that the user is resting or on leave.

8. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, further comprising:

selecting means for selecting another user's group of virtual single rooms of a department on a screen;

visitation input means for inputting visitation to the selected other user's group of virtual single rooms; and

virtual single-room office display means for, when the visitation is inputted, displaying the inside of the group of virtual single rooms of a visited user on the screen of said terminal device of a visitor, wherein

the screen in which the inside of the group of virtual single rooms of the visited user is displayed includes a visited user's working situation image, and a diagram image meaning fittings or fixtures of the visited user.

9. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, further comprising:

selecting means for selecting another user's group of virtual single rooms of a department on a screen;

visitation input means for inputting visitation to the selected user's group of virtual single rooms; and

office display means for, when the visitation is inputted, displaying the inside of the group of virtual single rooms of a visitor on the screen of said terminal device of a visited user, wherein

the screen in which the inside of the group of virtual single rooms of the visitor is displayed includes a visitor's working situation image, a diagram image meaning visitor's fittings or fixtures, and a diagram image indicating an entrance door to the office, and the visitor's working situation image is displayed in a window portion of the door.

10. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, further comprising:

selecting means for selecting another user's group of virtual single rooms of a department on a screen;

input means for inputting visitation or telephone to the selected user's group of virtual single rooms; and

telephone communication means by which when the visitation or the telephone to the other user's group of virtual single rooms is inputted, the server device makes telephone calls to telephone subscriber numbers registered beforehand of both the users via a telephone channel board, so that telephone communication can be realized between the users.

11. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein said terminal device comprises:

cameras for photographing users' images;

converting means for converting the users' images photographed by said cameras to compressed images with a predetermined number of pixels; and

transmitting means for transmitting the converted images to said server device,

said server device comprises:

generating means for generating a reduced compressed image by reducing the number of pixels of the received image; and

third transmitting means for transmitting the generated reduced compressed images to said terminal device, and

the transmitted reduced compressed images are displayed in the screens of said terminal device as the other users' working situation images.

12. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 8, wherein said terminal device comprises:

a camera for photographing users' images;

converting means for converting the users' images photographed by said camera to compressed images with a predetermined number of pixels; and

third transmitting means for transmitting the converted image to said server device, and

said server device comprises:

fourth transmitting means for transmitting the compressed image of the visited user to the visitor's terminal device.

13. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 9, wherein said terminal device comprises:

cameras for photographing users' images;

converting means for converting the users' images photographed by said camera to compressed images with a predetermined number of pixels; and

third transmitting means for transmitting the converted image to said server device, and

said server device comprises:

fourth transmitting means for transmitting the compressed image of the visited user to the visitor's terminal device.

14. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein when the working situation image of another user using a portable terminal device having no camera as said terminal device is displayed, said display means displays a user's image registered beforehand in said server device.

15. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein said display means comprises setting means for setting a frame rate by a user's operation when another user's working situation image photographed by a camera disposed on the terminal device is received and displayed.

16. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 3, further comprising:

indicating means for indicating an organization on the screen in which the group of virtual single rooms of the users belonging to the same organization are displayed in the same virtual office; and

moving means for moving the screen to the virtual office area of a different organization in accordance with the indication by said indicating means.

17. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 14, further comprising:

referring means for referring to profile concerning a screen display ability of a portable information terminal registered in said server device;

generating means for generating display data for screen display of said portable information terminal by said server device; and

third transmitting means for transmitting the generated display data to said portable information terminal, wherein

said portable information terminal displays images of the virtual single-room office, a virtual office area and a user common space area in accordance with the received display data.

18. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein the character information concerning the working situation is inputted by a telephone set ten key, in addition to by said terminal device.

19. (Original) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein said server device comprises:

time setting means for setting a user's standard working time; and

sound instruction sending means for sending an instruction for melody sound to said terminal device, and

said terminal device comprises:

a sound source device; and

ringing means for receiving said sent instruction for the melody sound to ring the melody sound at a work start time, a lunch break start time, a lunch break end time, a work end time, and a core time end time for an ordinary working user.

20. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system according to claim 1, wherein said server device comprises:

setting means for setting a user's standard rest time or a rest interval time; and

sound instruction sending means for sending an instruction for melody sound to said terminal device, and

said terminal device comprises:

a sound source device; and

ringing means for receiving the sent instruction for melody sound to ring a rest promoting melody sound for urging a worker's rest.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of managing a distributed group system for displaying ~~what~~ text data indicating where a user is ~~doing,~~ on a screen of each terminal device with text data, comprising the steps of:

inputting a picked-up image from a camera;

inputting text data at its own terminal device, including information ~~about what~~ indicating where a user is ~~doing~~;

repeatedly receiving at a server a picked-up image and the text data ~~about what~~ indicating where a user is ~~doing;~~ from each of the terminal devices;

displaying at each terminal device a virtual office area where a group of a user's virtual single rooms surrounded with a rectangular frame are displayed, wherein ~~each user's virtual single room has~~ the received picked-up image which is transmitted repeatedly and the text data ~~about what~~ indicating where a user is ~~doing~~ are located in each user's virtual single room.

Claim 22. (Cancelled).

23. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein selecting of the users to be displayed in the virtual office, and changing of arrangement of a display position of the information concerning the user are performed by a specific user.

24. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein said step of displaying the information concerning the other user's working situation comprises displaying a virtual user common space area including a

meeting room, a training room, a data room, or a lounge with the virtual office area on the screen of the terminal device.

25. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein the user's virtual single room has information on a future working schedule.

26. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein when telephone communication is performed via a telephone channel board disposed in the server device, said step of displaying the information concerning the user's working situation comprises displaying character information indicating that the user is on the telephone as the character information concerning the user's working situation.

27. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein said step of displaying the information concerning the user's working situation comprises, when the user is resting, not displaying the resting or on leave user's working situation image, and displaying an image indicating that the user is resting or on leave.

28. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

selecting another user's group of virtual single rooms of a department on the screen;

inputting visitation to the selected other user's virtual single rooms; and

when the visitation is inputted, displaying the inside of the group of virtual single rooms of a visited user on the screen of the terminal device of a visitor, wherein

the screen in which the inside of the group of virtual single rooms of the visited user is displayed includes a visited user's working situation image, and a diagram image meaning fittings or fixtures of the visited user.

29. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

selecting another user's group of virtual single rooms of a department on the screen;

inputting visitation to the selected user's group of virtual single rooms; and

when the visitation is inputted, displaying the inside of the group of virtual single rooms of a visitor on the screen of the terminal device of a visited user, wherein

the screen in which the inside of the group of virtual single rooms of the visitor is displayed includes a visitor's working situation image, a diagram image meaning visitor's fittings or fixtures, and a diagram image indicating an entrance door to the office, and the visitor's working situation image is displayed in a window portion of the door.

30. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

selecting another user's group of virtual single rooms of a department on the screen;

inputting visitation or telephone to the selected user's group of virtual single rooms; and

when the visitation or the telephone to the selected user's group of virtual single rooms is inputted, making telephone calls to telephone subscriber numbers registered beforehand of both the users via a telephone channel board by the server device, so that telephone communication can be realized between the users.

31. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

converting a user's image photographed by a camera disposed on said terminal device to a compressed image with a predetermined number of pixels; and

transmitting the converted image to the server device;

generating a reduced compressed image by reducing the number of pixels of the received image by the server device;

transmitting the generated reduced compressed image to the terminal device; and

displaying said transmitted reduced compressed image as another user's working situation image in the screen of the terminal device.

32. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 28, further comprising the steps of:

converting a user's image photographed by a camera disposed on the terminal device to a compressed image with a predetermined number of pixels;

transmitting the converted image to the server device; and

transmitting the compressed image of the visited user to the visitor's terminal device by the server device.

33. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

converting a user's image photographed by a camera disposed on the terminal device to a compressed image with a predetermined number of pixels;

transmitting the converted image to the server device; and

transmitting the compressed image of the visited user to the visitor's terminal device by the server device.

34. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein when the working situation image of another user using a

portable terminal device not having a camera as the terminal device is displayed, said step of displaying the information concerning the user's working situation comprises displaying a user's image registered before hand in the server device.

35. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein said step of displaying the information concerning the user's working situation comprises the steps of: receiving the user's working situation image photographed by a camera disposed on the terminal device; and displaying the image in a frame rate set by a user's operation.

36. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

indicating an organization on the screen on which the group of virtual single rooms of the users belonging to the same organization are displayed in the same virtual office area; and

moving the screen to the virtual office area of the different organization in accordance with the indication.

37. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 34, further comprising the steps of:

referring to profile concerning a screen display ability of a portable information terminal registered in the server device;

generating optimum display data for screen display of the portable information terminal by the server device; and

transmitting the generated display data to the portable information terminal, wherein

the portable information terminal displays images of the virtual single-room office, a virtual office area and a user common space area in accordance with the received display data.

38. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, wherein the character information concerning the working situation is inputted by a telephone set ten key, in addition to by the terminal device.

39. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

setting a user's standard working time by the server device;

sending an instruction for melody sound to the terminal device, and

receiving the sent instruction for the melody sound by the terminal device to ring by an attached sound source device the melody sound at a work start time, a lunch

break start time, a lunch break end time, a work end time, and a core time end time for an ordinary working user.

40. (Previously Presented) The distributed office system managing method according to claim 21, further comprising the steps of:

setting a user's standard rest time or a rest interval time by the server device;

sending an instruction for melody sound to the terminal device; and

receiving the sent instruction for the melody sound by the terminal device to ring a rest promoting melody sound for urging a worker's rest by an attached sound source device.

41. (Currently Amended) A terminal device connected to a server device via a communication channel for displaying ~~what~~ text data indicating where a user is ~~doing~~ on a screen with text data, comprising:

image input means for inputting a picked-up image from a camera;

status input means for inputting text data at its own terminal device, the text data including information about what indicating where a user is ~~doing~~;

transmitting means for repeatedly transmitting a picked-up image and text data input by said status input means to the server device;

receiving means for repeatedly receiving a picked-up image and the text data of the each terminal device from the server device; and;

display means for ~~displaying~~ controlling a display device to display a virtual office area where a group of a user's virtual single rooms surrounded with a rectangular frame are displayed, wherein ~~each user's virtual single room has~~ the received picked-up image which is transmitted repeatedly and the text data ~~about what~~ indicating where a user is ~~doing~~ are located in each user's single room.

42. (Previously Presented) A distributed group system according to Claim 1, wherein said display means displays information on whether a virtual meeting room for having a meeting with the other users is occupied or vacant, and a dialog box for communicating with a selected user one to one in response to designating a user's virtual single room office of the selected user.

43. (Previously Presented) A method of managing according to Claim 21, wherein, in said steps of displaying a virtual office area and a class organization icon, displaying information on whether a virtual meeting room for having a meeting with the other users is occupied or vacant, and a dialog box for communicating with a selected user one to one in response to designating a user's virtual single room office of the selected user.

44. (Previously Presented) A terminal device according to Claim 41, wherein said display means displays information on whether a virtual meeting room for having a meeting with the other users is occupied or vacant, and a dialog box for communicating with a selected user one to one in response to designating a user's virtual single room office of the selected user.